## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 45 [46] with the following replacement paragraph:

[045] [046] Fig. 4 is a chart illustrative of the process utilizing a computer and a data storage device to construct a database whose data records include ~~for making~~ a series of weighted-average periodic returns for a population of all possible allocation alternatives available from the combination of pre-determined set of market sectors and a minimum allocation percentage increment in accordance with the present invention;

Please replace paragraph 46 [47] with the following replacement paragraph:

[046] [047] Fig. 5 is a graph illustrative of the use of a computer and a data storage device to implement the generally-accepted procedure for comparing the investment performance of investment alternatives within a population over a single analysis period, using the measurement of differential return and employing the investment performance characteristics for a population of allocation alternatives that are generated by the method of the present invention;

CW
2/23/10

Please replace paragraph 47 [48] with the following replacement paragraph:

[047] [048] Fig. 6 is a graph illustrative of the use of a computer and a data storage device to implement the generally-accepted procedure for comparing the investment performance of investment alternatives within a population over two related analysis periods, using the measurement of differential return and employing the investment

performance characteristics for a population of allocation alternatives that are generated by the method of the present invention; and

Please replace paragraph 48 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0048]    Fig. 7 is a graph illustrative of the use of <u>a computer and a data storage device to implement</u> the generally-accepted procedure for comparing the investment performance of investment alternatives within a population over a series of related analysis periods, using the measurements of average differential return and variance of differential returns and employing the investment performance characteristics for a population of allocation alternatives that are generated by the method of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph 49 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0049]    Forty years of performance data for investment portfolios from domestic and foreign securities is available for use with the present method. This amount of data is sufficient for deriving the statistics necessary to answer the types of questions raised by investors in evaluating allocation alternatives in accordance with the present invention.    These questions are ones pertaining to long-term risk that can only be answered in the context of comparing the effect that risk has on [[a]] whole populations of alternatives across multiple periods of different market conditions. Fig. 3 contrasts the completeness of the comparative investment performance record that is

3

generated by the present method with the prior art processes for describing populations of allocation alternatives.

Please replace paragraph 51 [50] with the following replacement paragraph:

[051] [050]    As shown in Figs. 5-7, the present method uses a computer and a data storage device to evaluate evaluates the value of the recommendations of investment managers and other providers of investment advice whom have proposed or implemented a strategy for allocating the assets of an investment portfolio.    An allocation strategy, unless accompanied by perfect foresight of future market conditions and the willingness of the investor to absorb the expenses associated with opportunistic changes in strategy, must, by definition, be a long-term strategy that will adequately address the risk-tolerance and investment objectives of the investor across multiple market cycles.    There exists a  premium on finding a strategy whose investment performance remains consistently stronger relative to its peers across all types of market conditions, the key attribute of which is market-cycle stability.

CW

3/23/10

Please replace paragraph 58 with the following replacement paragraph:

[058]    As shown in Fig. 4, the method of the present invention uses a computer and a data storage device to calculate calculates past-period investment performance data for an entire population of allocation alternatives which, as illustrated for the case of the alternatives available from the combination of five market sectors in minimum allocation percentage increments of 5-percent, is comprised of 10,626 allocation

4

alternatives. This whole-population approach enables the comparison of investment performance characteristics for an allocation alternative against population benchmark measures within a single analysis period, as well as the tracking of the comparative performance of allocation alternatives within populations that span a series of analysis periods. [[s.]]   Fig. 4 also provides a chart of a representative series of periodic returns across the five market sectors where AGG is aggressive risk; AAB is above average risk; AVG is average risk; LRSK is low risk; and CON is contrarian risk to illustrate the present invention.

Please replace paragraph *64* [[65]] with the following replacement paragraph:

*CH*
*2/25/10*

[0*64*[[65]]]        Fourth, <u>using a computer and a data storage device, a database whose records are the</u> [[a]] set of possible <u>all</u> "asset allocation strategies" is constructed. An asset allocation strategy is a plan for combining investments from these market sectors into an "investment portfolio". An investment portfolio is a collection of two or more investments.   The commonly-held objective of maintaining such collections is to maximize future investment returns for an expected level of investment risk. Asset allocation plans are devised in terms of the percentage of portfolio assets to be held in investments from each market sector and alternative plans are known as allocation strategy alternatives.   For example, a list of alternative strategies is generated by combining the five market sectors of mutual funds in minimum allocation percentage increments of 5-percent each to form an  investment portfolio.  This results in a list of 10,626 allocation alternatives, as shown in Fig. 4, portion B.